



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No. 10/695,920
Filing Date October 27, 2003
Inventorship John R. Bowers et al.
Group Art Unit 2125
Examiner Not yet assigned
Attorney's Docket No. BO45-001
Title: Moisture Sensor Sprinkler Control Systems

REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED EXAMINATION
OF A UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION

To: Mail Stop Expedited Design
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This is a request for expedited examination of a utility patent application under 37 CFR 1.102(c).

A pre-filing search was conducted. The field of search was Class 239 Fluid Sprinkling, Spraying, and Diffusing; Subclass 63 With Cutoff or Flow Varying Means Operated by Means Responsive to Discharged Fluid (e.g. Ground Moisture Sensing).

Related applications: There are no parent or related U.S. or foreign applications filed by the applicants.

No fee is believed needed in this case because the basis for making special falls within the exception provided in 37 CFR 1.102(c) for inventions that materially enhance the quality of the environment and those which materially contribute to the conservation of energy resources.

An information disclosure statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 is submitted herewith showing the results of searching conducted on the invention prior to filing.

Applicants petition that their application be accorded "special" status on two bases. The first is because the invention materially contributes to *Environmental Quality* because the invention contributes to the maintenance of the basis life-sustaining natural element, namely – water. The second basis is that the invention materially contributes to the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources.

The invention is a sprinkler control system that prevents automatic use of water when the detected ground moisture content is acceptable without watering. This reduces the use of water, thereby supporting the first basis of this request. The invention also conserves energy resources because almost all water must be pumped and a reduction in water use directly results in reduction of the energy used to pump the water to the place of storage or place of use depending on the particular installation.

No fee is believed required for the filing of this Request; however, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Patent and Trademark Office to charge Deposit Account 502881 for any fees or to credit any overpayments in connection with this application and the papers being filed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/31/04

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John R. Bowers, Applicant

Date: 3/31/04

By: John W. Bowers
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